

Title of scenario: „Why did they react like that?“
(Example project: “Borrowed Identity / Photo Story”)

Target group:
Students before they go abroad.

Brief description of scenario:
Students from different countries get in touch – online & real – with each other by sharing typical information of their home by switching into a borrowed identity and creating a photo story. The creation of a photo story provided a didactical framework to facilitate the “change of roles and identities”. Furthermore the media product is a graspable documentation of the learning process.

Aims:
To gain intercultural awareness
To gain media competences
To learn from each other
To get connected via new media (learning platform)
To be prepared for the time they have to be abroad

Equipment needed:
Digital photo camera, Computer with word processing, powerpoint & internet access

Learning outcome:
Students think about how it would be to have an other identity and how many different aspects are belonging to this new live they are pretending.
Students learn by getting in touch with each other to understand and how to manage daily life in a completely new culture.
Students are able to express themselves with the help of new media: using learning platforms, mail, sharing photos, dealing with photos (to shrink, resize), fill in templates in word processing applications...

Scenario in more detail:
Hans from Germany enrolls for the “borrowed identity module”.
At first he receives a questionnaire which asks him to complete his profile with questions about himself then he should answer questions about himself in case he grew up in a foreign culture (the country he would like to live in). He chooses Spain as he likes the country for holidays, he likes the language and he would like to work there in future. He would share the results with a tutor and the results would be visible to other students enrolled in the module.
After this first exercise he starts with the Borrowed Identity photo story.
“Borrow the identity of a student of your age in the culture of your choice, who moves in a new flat/room in a new town. Think of aspects how his/her flat/room look like, if it would be shared with others or not, what he or she would do first after moving in, about potential interactions with neighbours etc. Hans tries to remember aspects from holiday but discovers that he knows little about the everyday life in Spain. After some research on the net he finally decides to contact the online-student Fernando, because he comes from Spain and Hans liked the original answers to the questionnaire from him. After some online-chats and mail exchange Hans has now a picture for “his story” in mind.
He produces the story as a photo story by using the photo database, pictures he found on the net, pictures and graphics he did himself. As a supporter: Some of the material was sent by Fernando (in exchange for material provided by Hans). After finishing his photo story he feels a little bit as a Spaniard and Hans is even more excited to experience how it really would be, when he goes to Spain for an internship. The tutor reacted to the photo story of Hans by asking him to identify underlying values/perspectives/actions he thinks are typical to him, typical to Germany/Spain or which are universal to humans. This exercise helped him to reflect and understand the original goal of the exercise.